

# CHATTER

CAPE POTTERY SUPPLIES - P O BOX 36, STEENBERG, 7966

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MONTAGUE GARDENS BRANCH :

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SOMERSET WEST BRANCH : 3a Stuart Close

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## *From Syd in Retreat Branch*

I love making ceramics but when it comes to decorating, I'm stuck. I've tried everything: underglazes, oxides, stains etc. but then I discovered Sprigs.

"Sprigging or sprigged decoration is an embossed decoration on pottery, usually press moulded shapes applied to greenware or bisque. Clay body for the sprig is pushed into the mould, the back scraped flat, then released on a damp cloth pad. The greenware is wetted lightly with a brush, and the sprig is pressed lightly with another cloth pad to push out water and air. " ( taken off Wikipedia)

Sprigging is so easy, you can make a mould of any found object or you can carve your design into the plaster of Paris. **Ceramics Arts Daily** has a step by step tutorial on how to make sprigs (<http://ceramicartsdaily.org/>). Whilst browsing their website I found some more interesting information on transferring images onto clay. There is so much to do, one simply must be willing to experiment – who knew that one could transfer a lazer printed decal image onto greenware? Visit their website and have a look.

We have a lovely selection of underglaze crayons: Medium Blue, Black, White, Medium Green, Dark Blue and they are great for drawing onto bisque ware and can be fired up to stoneware temperature. All fire to cone 10, except Medium Green (cone5). The prices are R 45.50 each.

Our wipe out tool has been discontinued but has been replaced with a wipe out tool set, which is even better and the price is R 66.40.

We at CPS are doing our bit to keeps things exciting in the ceramics industry as we are getting ready for next year 2014 as Cape Town is the Design Capital of the world. If there is anything new or interesting happening that you would like to share with us please don't hesitate to drop us an e-mail.

Happy Potting!

Syd

## *From Kathy at Montague Gardens Branch*

FROM: THE RACING PARK TEAM...

It's been a cold winter so far; hope you have all kept warm...

Well what's new? I have found a web site, [www.potterymagic.com](http://www.potterymagic.com). It has been most helpful to me, as I have customers asking frequent questions regarding problems that occur whilst glazing- really a good site to visit...

Some news with products that we have right under our noses: I have a daughter who suffers from psoriasis. Through our network of potters I received the most rewarding information. Using Bentolite as a mud pack on her skin has really helped. Her skin is normally flaky and rough on certain areas. Well since using Bentolite, her skin has improved so much - smooth and no more flakiness...You can even have a bath in it, it has a rejuvenating effect on your skin...I know of someone who drinks a teaspoon of Bentolite in a glass of water daily, and it's inexpensive, I must say, compared to products you buy at the chemists...

Amaco has arrived in our stores, I love the High Fire glazes (brush on) and Potters Choice, a must to try, and their finishes are exciting...

I have quite a number of potters asking how to do transfers. Simple way to resolve all the uncertainty- go to "you tube". They have videos explaining how to do transfers on ceramics...when the time comes we will definitely include this as one of our training classes..

Regarding classes, we will advertise when this will be starting at our store on our website...

That's it for now; we look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Regards  
Kathy

## From Aalbe in Somerset West

Recently I had a customer who came to see me as his controller had stopped working & he was making enquiries re buying a new one. It turned out that he had been battling for a while to get his kiln to temperature and, as a result, only fired his work to about 1000C. The problem lay not with his controller or his kiln, but with the cable that an electrician had extended. It had burnt out where the electrician had joined two cables. Sometimes a seemingly insurmountable problem takes a bit of "detective work", but can be solved.

Kiln taking double the length of time to reach temperature? The problem could be any of the following:

- elements
- contactor
- burnt-out wire

NEW: Amaco

Designer Velvet underglazes –

DV3325 DESERT SKY 2oz

DV3369 SAND STORM 2oz

DV3367 TUMBLEWEED 2oz

Cone 05 glazes -

38366X NAVY F-21 pint

38367A VIVID BLUE F-23 pint

36307G SAND BAR A-34 pint

39333X DALMATION LT-13 pint

37038W JEWEL BROWN LT-132 pint

39341G MOSS AGATE LT-48 pint

38594E MOTTLED ORANGE LT-166 pint

39332W SPECKELD GREEN LT-12 pint

39336B TAHITIAN BLUE LT-22 pint

We also have more stock of the bead rollers:

12489V TOOL TRI-BEAD ROLLER

12531C TOOL BEAD ROLLER

ROUND/OVAL 18-16-13

NEW MUD TOOLS:

MUD003 SHREDDER – CONICAL w HANDLE

MUD004 SHREDDER – FLAT w HANDLE

MUD005 CARVING & FLUTING TOOL

The Chrysanthos High Fire Exotics (cone 4 – 6) range has also expanded:

HE149 BLUE AGATE 140ml

HF129 BRIGHT BLUE 140ml

HE129 GRANITE 140ml

HE145 SAGE AGATE 140ml

HE117 SEA SPRAY 140ml



## WORKSHOPS COMING UP AT THE SOMERSET WEST BRANCH .....

### Glazing

Learn everything you wanted to know about glazing your own work. Elsabe Nel-Harries will show you how to mix up your own glaze, as well as taking you through the processes of dipping, pouring and brushing-on the glaze.

Come with lots of questions – the only silly question is the one that doesn't get asked!

The items glazed in this workshop will be used in the following Firing workshop, in which the participants will all have a chance to learn about the firing process.

Enjoy a teabreak with tea/coffee and treats!

The course is a 2 ½ hour workshop that will run on Wednesday 7 August 2013.

Cost of the course is R290-00 (VAT inclusive)

### Firing

Learn everything you wanted to know about firing a kiln. Elsabe Nel-Harries will guide you through the process of packing a kiln, as well as explaining the firing process.

Questions are welcomed – there is no such thing as a silly question!

The items glazed in the Glazing workshop the week before will be used in the Firing workshop to enable participants a chance to learn how to pack a kiln.

Enjoy a teabreak with tea/coffee and treats!

The course is a 2 ½ hour workshop that will run on Wednesday 14 August 2013.

Cost of the course is R200-00 (VAT inclusive)

### Going Pear-shaped!

Bring a firm, fresh piece of fruit (pear, apple, orange, etc.) to the workshop, & leave with a press mould & fruit shaped sugar bowl/teapot/jug – all made by you! Elsabe will deal with the basic concepts of mould making, press moulding, and adaptation of a form to create a functional vessel, & slip decoration.

A 2-day workshop with **all materials provided** and **FREE tools** to take home!

Enjoy a **sumptuous teabreak** at each session

The course will run over 2 weeks, every Wednesday, 21 & 28 August 2013.

Cost of the course is R450.00 (VAT inclusive)

# Knitted Colour

Combine 4 different clays in creating a patterned coil-built vessel, the colours of which will be accentuated by the addition of a coloured decorating slip. Get to know the shrinkage rates, compatibilities, and colours of your clay better - how to push combinations of them.

A two-day workshop. **All materials and tools provided.**

Free T2015 PLASTIC KNIFE SET  
SEP005 STEEL KIDNEY

An exceptional spread of tea/coffee & delicious cake will be provided !

The course will over run two consecutive Wednesdays, 4 & 11 September 2013.

Cost of the course is R 450.00 (VAT inclusive)

# Beads Galore

Come and join me, Elsabe, in a fun workshop making your own jewellery. I will cover the making of beads and pendants, the decorating and firing techniques, plus some tips on making it all your own. As a bonus I will cover the firing of small items, such as spoons and other objects that need to be glazed all over – as the firing is similar to that of beads.

**FREE:** SEP046 POTTER'S CUT OFF  
NEEDLE T2015 PLASTIC KNIFE  
SET

EVE053 CERAMIC TOOL CS480-2  
EVE068 GOAT HAIR 1 INCH  
SAB084 PRIME ART BIANCO R6

The course will run on three consecutive Wednesdays: 2 October 2013 to 16 October 2013.

Cost of the course is R600.00 (VAT inclusive)

# ALL WORKSHOPS

**Times:** 9.30am to 12pm.  
**Venue :** Cape Pottery Supplies  
3 A Stuart Close  
Somerset Business Park  
Somerset West

All prices are VAT inclusive.

An exceptional spread of tea/coffee & delicious cake/biscuits will be provided !

**NB :** Seats are limited to 10 only - so based on a first come, first served basis.

Your payment secures your position. In the event of less than 5 people booking for the course, a full refund will be given. Refunds will be given if cancellations are received prior to the start of the course: 50% deposit if a week or less notice given, otherwise full refund.

Book now with Aafke tel: 021-852 3548  
email : [aafke@capepotterysupplies.co.za](mailto:aafke@capepotterysupplies.co.za)



Our Pakistani metal tools are becoming increasingly popular – visit our website to see the wide variety of shapes available.



## From Craig's desk

As we sit here in the depth of winter, I am reminded how the winter impacts on clays both liquid and the pugged version.

Throwing bodies generally dry a lot slower in winter which is good as it tends to dry more evenly through it's cross-section. As it warms and turns to spring and summer we need to be alive to this as it is time to start covering our pots or else cracking will become a feature of our firings.

The same applies with slip, like most thixotropic bodies, with the low temperatures they stiffen up in the bucket and set in the mould far quicker than in summer time. This affects the fluidity and causes air bubbles to be trapped in the cast piece close to the surface, resulting in pinholes in the fired ware. It is important to stir the buckets prior to using, not agitate it too much to create air bubbles. If practical and possible put the bucket in the sun to warm up and cast later in the day. This has a big impact on fluidity.

If you are aware of developing pinholes then a small addition of water will increase the fluidity and help release the bubbles.

Gently tapping the side of the mould in the early stages of casting will also assist in releasing the bubbles.

Happy Potting – Craig.



## CSA – CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Ceramics SA ( Western Cape )**

Ceramics SA Regional Exhibition

Opens 3 November 2013 at the Great Cellar,  
Alphen Estate, Constantia

Juried exhibition: 3 entries one of which one may  
be a set and must be sold as a set. This is a  
selected exhibition and prizes will be awarded. No  
theme.

Invitational exhibition is self selected and 2 works  
may be entered. Theme is “Jugs 50 shades of  
Blue” Jugs can be any form or size, functional or  
not.

Information about selectors, delivery dates and  
registration forms will appear in the next CSA  
newsletter and on the CSA website [www.ceramics-sa-cape.co.za](http://www.ceramics-sa-cape.co.za)

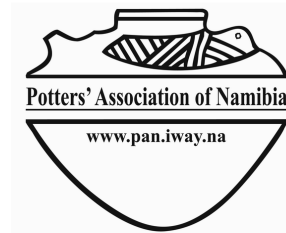
Ceramics SA Potters Market Saturday 23  
November 2013 Rondebosch Park. This is a  
members only market. For information please  
contact Iris Stuck at 021 7155530

Magdalene Odundo is coming to South Africa in  
November 2014 as part of November 2014  
Ceramic Month. November 2014 will be a  
celebration of local, National and African ceramics  
as part of Cape Town World Design Capital status.

Please check our website [www.ceramics-sa-cape.co.za](http://www.ceramics-sa-cape.co.za) for details on workshops, exhibitions  
and markets. Booking forms under Downloads.



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**Cape Pottery Supplies - agents  
and distributors of AMACO and  
BRENT products for South Africa.**  
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## PAN 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **SEPTEMBER**

#### **OMARURU**

Sat 21 & Sun 22:  
Omaruru Artist Trail

#### **WINDHOEK**

Sunday 29: Entries submission for 6<sup>th</sup> Nat. Ceramics  
Biennale @ NAGN

### **OCTOBER**

#### **WINDHOEK**

Thursday 3: Opening of 6<sup>th</sup> National Ceramics Biennale  
@ NAGN

Friday – Sunday 4 – 6: Workshop presented by  
Catherine Brennon

Wednesday 30: Biennale Exhibition Closes

#### **SWAKOMUND**

Friday – Sunday 11 – 13:  
Workshop presented by Catherine Brennon

### **NOVEMBER**

#### **WINDHOEK**

Fri 1 & Sat 2: Kidz Fun Fair

#### **SWAKOPMUND**

Keramos Studio Student Exhibition,  
Opening Saturday 02; closing Saturday 09  
Venue Keramos Studio, 19 Aukas St, Swakopmund